CHAPTER V

THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION OF THE PHILIPPINES[1]

AMERICAN PHILIPPINE POLICY[2]

THE Philippine policy of the United States was begun haltingly and reluctantly. At the council table to formulate the Treaty of Peace between Spain and the United States the American Commissioners were unable to state whether the United States wanted the Philippines at all, desired the Island of Luzon alone, or claimed the entire archipelago. The higher authorities at Washington could give no more definite instructions. Even after President William McKinley on bended knees had sought divine guidance and had decided to place the Philippines on the American map, the opinion of the country was no better formed than that of its officials. By the closest of margins, the treaty received the necessary two-thirds vote in the United States Senate. The issue of anti-imperialism was threshed out before the American electorate, and the President was given a vote of confidence.

Having decided to keep the Philippine Islands, the question was what to do with them. What may be termed the compromise plan, which because of the ambiguity and uncertainty of American policy permitted of readjustment, was given practical application in the Philippines. The first and simplest policy, that of the anti-imperialists and their successors,

wanted the Americans to get out of the Philippines as soon as

[1] This chapter was read by Colonel Louis J. Van Schaick, in the early years of American occupation Governor of Mindoro and Governor of Cavite, more recently on the staff of the Governor-General,

[2] See Storey-Lichauco, *The Conquest of the PMlfyfines by the United, States (1926).*